

Remarks

An amendment was made to the specification to correct a typographical error which appeared in U.S. Published Application 2006/0172828, corresponding to this application. This error did not appear in the original copy of the specification as filed. No new matter has therefore been introduced by this amendment.

A further amendment has been made to insert into the specification seven new paragraphs, to be inserted between paragraphs [0066] and [0067] of the published application. These paragraphs have been numbered [0066.1] to [0066.7]. These paragraphs were taken verbatim from paragraphs [0006] to [0012] of U.S. published patent application No. US 2003/0162613, which had been incorporated by reference into the instant application. See paragraph [0066] of the instant published application. Hence, no new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Figures 27-30 have been inserted into the application. The figures show various configurations of grommets as described in paragraphs [0020], [0048], [0074] and [0076] of the published version of the application. As such, the inclusion of these drawings does not represent new matter. An additional paragraph has been added in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section describing the figures.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-13 have been rejected and that Claim 14 has been objected to. The Applicants have added additional new Claims 15-43.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 94/26361 (Usui). In addition, the Examiner has rejected Claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable under Usui in view of U.S. Patent 6,527,656 (Cheng, et al), and has rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Usui and Cheng in view of U.S. Patent 5,993,337 (Janes, et al). The Examiner has also indicated that Claim 14 has been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but has indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, the Applicants have added the limitations of Claims 13 and 14 to Claim 1, thereby putting Claim 14 in independent form as Claim 1. Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled. Claim 1 should therefore now be allowable. Because the remaining Claims 2-12 are dependent upon a claim which should now be allowable based upon the addition of the limitations of Claim 14 therein, Claims 2-12 should now be allowable as well.

As a result of the amendment to Claim 1, the Examiner's rejections of the claims of the application in light of various prior art as specified in paragraphs 3-5 of the office action have been rendered moot and will not be addressed further.

The Applicants have also added new Claims 15-43. Claims 15-23 recite a method of forming the racquet of the present invention which is distinguishable from Usui. The claimed method produces a racquet having a two-tubed structure wherein the two halves of the frame are molded out of separate tubular members and joined at a mating interface which lies in a plane parallel with or oblique to the string bed of the racquet. This is distinguishable from Usui in that Usui discloses a racquet having enlarged string holes wherein the body of the racquet is composed only of a single tubular member. See Figure 1 of Usui.

In addition, new Claims 24-43 have been added claiming a racquet having a structure including two tubular members which are joined together. In addition several dependant claims of Claim 24 recite limitations not disclosed in Usui. For example, Claim 28 claims string holes of different cross-sectional shapes, Claim 29 claims a string hole having three or more string bearing surfaces and Claim 31 claims a string hole having a string guide at each string bearing surface.

Conclusion

The Applicants have amended the existing claims of the application to put Claim 14 in independent form as Claim 1, thereby rendering Claims 2-12 patentable as well. In addition, the Applicants have provided new Claims 15-4 which claim both a method for creating a racquet and the structure of a racquet which is distinguishable from Usui in that a racquet has a two-tubed structure as opposed to the single-tubed structure of Usui. Further, Usui does not disclose a method of manufacture.

The Applicants believe all currently pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible time. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Applicants request the Examiner contact the Applicants attorney listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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